

Sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions from local authority own estate and operations



Cheshire West and Chester Council completed its first carbon budget at the end of the fiscal year 2014/2015. Cheshire West and Chester increased the scope of the cover to include water and waste within its financial boundary and set a further 30 per cent absolute reduction target against the 2014/2015 boundary on the new Scope. The 2016/2017 fiscal year report is presented against the 2014/2015 baseline. It should be noted though that this report is for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

Table one - Greenhouse gas emissions comparison

Global tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO ₂ e)						
	19-20	18-19	17-18	16-17	15-16	Base Year 14-15
Scope one direct: natural gas, on-site renewable technology, generator oil and owned transport	0	0	0	9,341	9,031	12,586
Scope two electricity indirect: purchased electricity (grid average)	0	0	0	20,735	24,812	25,253
Scope three other indirect: Water, Waste, business travel and significant services provided on behalf of the authority.	0	0	0	6,396	6,913	16,526
Total gross emissions	0	0	0	36,472	40,756	54,365
Carbon Offsets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green Tariff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total annual net emissions	0	0	0	36,472	40,756	54,365
Total annual net emissions per staff			0	0	0	

Notes on the calculation of these figures:

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1. Organisation Information

Cheshire West and Chester Council are a Unitary Authority. Registered address HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2NP.

2. Reporting period

The reporting period covers the fiscal year 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017.

3. Change in emissions

The Council's reported emissions have decreased post local weather correction this year and the actual amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) has reduced across the board for electricity with a slight increase in Gas emissions due to the rise in heating requirement and functioning of Gas Combined Heat and Power boilers (CHPs). The major reduction though is down to measures being under taken to reduce and redirect waste to carbon emission reducing schemes. Reductions in electricity are further down to some loss of assets to Academy schools.

Approach

The Council have followed the Government's guidance on how to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions using the 2013 figures from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/measuring-and-reporting-environmental-impacts-guidance-for-businesses> and have reviewed back over three years to ensure compliance.

4. Organisational boundary

The Council has used the financial control approach.

5. Operational scopes

The Council has measured our Scope one, two and significant Scope three emissions where a monitoring system is in place to do so. Where no monitoring system was in place we have sort to put one in.

Table two – Breakdown of 2015/2016 emissions

	GHG emissions in 13/14 in tonnes of CO ₂ e	Specific exclusions, value against relevant scope
Scope 1		
Gas consumption	9,340	Gas data has been locally weather corrected. Oil has been reported where purchased from the central contract.
Gas oil consumption	0	

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Fleet fuel	0	Fleet fuel removed from all years due to change in systems reporting accounting causing misc errors. As a small percentage of total considered minor. Where data was not available at the time unknown fuel was taken to be diesel due to the 98 per cent majority of the fleet being fuelled by diesel.
Renewable energy	0	The Authority has installed 610kWp of Solar PV across multiple sites generating 370 Megawatt hours (MWh). 40 per cent of this is deemed as going back to the grid.
Total Scope one	9,340	
Scope 2 Purchased electricity	20,735	Unable to weather correct electrically heated buildings due to multiple demands on metering circuits.
Total Scope two	20,735	
Significant Scope three		Re-evaluation to scope three emissions rather than Total GHG across all years to give fair comparison. All rail and air miles were recorded through our third party ticket providers. Business mileage was collected via the total financial claim system on monetary value there is no details of fuel or engine type so average car was used. Flights and accommodation were undertaken this year.
Electric distribution and transmission	1,876	
Business travel	900	
Rail/Flights/Accommodation	45	
Water	250	
Waste	3,324	
Total Significant Scope three	6,395	

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6. Base Year

The Council's base year is 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 which the Council set using a fixed base approach with the Carbon Trust's methodology updated with the Governmental schemes figures.

The Council's base year recalculation policy is to recalculate our base year emissions and the prior year emissions for relevant significant changes which meet our significance threshold of 5 per cent of total base year emissions or an update of greenhouse gas factors.

7. Targets

The Council's emissions target is to reduce our absolute global carbon and associated greenhouse gas emissions, Scopes one, two, and three by 30 per cent from the baseline 2014 - 2015 year by 31 March 2020. Actual consumption figures have continued to reduce in 2016-2017 to a 32.9 per cent reduction, achieving target. This now needs to be maintained or increased.

8. Intensity measurement

The Council has chosen 'Tonnes of CO₂e' per assigned post as the Council does not have a product output.

Our intensity measurement has increased this year due to decrease in employed posts despite emission reductions.

9. External Assurance Statement

None currently in place.

10. Carbon Offsets

The Council have not bought into any carbon offsetting schemes.

11. Renewable energy

The Council installed between October 2011 and March 2012 410kWp of Solar PV across multiple sites generating 370MWh in this period. 50 per cent of this is deemed as going back to the grid. The Council further installed 200kWp in 2016-2017 with generating potential of 173MWh totalling a potential 543MWh.

12. Green Tariffs

The Council continued in its current energy contract. The Council has purchased non certifiable green tariff electricity where the site was not Value Added Tax exempt.